Increase in Price of Wheat for Export by FCI

2200. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has recently increased the prices of wheat for export purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the wheat export is likely to be affected as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The price of wheat sold by FCI for the purpose of export from Central Pool was last increased with effect from 1.7.1996.

(b) The price of wheat sold for the purpose of export was revised from Rs. 4410/- to Rs. 4900/- per MT with effect from 1.7.1996 for sale ex-FCI godowns only in Punjab and Haryana from where the sale of wheat for the purpose of export is to be made.

(c) Against the authorisation given to the FCI during 1996-97 to export/sell for the purpose of export upto 5.0 lakh tonnes of non-durum wheat against the carryover commitment made in 1995-96, about 4.42 lakh tonnes have already been released as on 31.7.1996 leaving a balance of 0.58 lakh tonnes of wheat. Wheat exporters are free to purchase wheat for purposes of export from the open market. Potential for export of wheat from the country depends, *inter-alia*, on the world market prices, which cannot be precisely predicted at present.

Contract to Private Operators for Transporting Coal

2201. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what procedure is normally followed for award of contract to private operators for transporting coal by subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) whether it is a fact that procedure for awarding such contract is not by open tender but by negotiations with the private parties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total amount of payments made to the private ccontracting parties for transporting coal by various subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. during the last two years, subsidiary-wise and company-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The award of contracts to civilian contractors for transportation of coal is through open and limited tenders. Ex-servicemen companies are engaged on the basis of sponsorship of Directorate General, Resettlement of the Ministry of Defence.

(d) The payments made by subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited, subsidiary-wise, to the contractors for transportation of coal during the last two years are as under:—

Company	(Rupees in lakhs) Payment made in 1994-95	Payment made in 1995-96
Eastern Coalfields Limited	1,441.29	1,442.59
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	3,220.71	3,207.55
Central Coalfields Limited	9,385.00	10,287.00
Western Coalfields Limited	3,191.00	4,459.00
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	2,803.00	2,716.00